



Children's

Choices
2013



Logo illustration © by Tomie dePaola

What Is the Children's Choices Project?

Each year 12,500 school children from different regions of the United States read newly published children's and young adults' trade books and vote for the ones they like best. These Children's Choices, selected from more than 500 titles, can be counted on as books children really enjoy reading. This list, a project of a joint committee supported by IRA and The Children's Book Council (CBC), is designed for use not only by teachers, librarians, administrators, and booksellers but also by parents, grandparents, caregivers, and everyone who wishes to encourage young people to read for pleasure.

See page 15 for the
Children's Choices
2013 Reading List
bookmark!

Beginning Readers (Grades K-2)

Amelia Bedelia's First Vote

Herman Parish. Ill. Lynne Avril. HarperCollins Children's Books/Greenwillow.

It's election time, and Amelia decides students should be allowed to vote on rules at school. Amelia's humor and mishaps mixes with valid information about the election process.

Back to Front and Upside Down

Claire Alexander. Eerdmans Books for Young Readers.

Stan loves to draw pictures but when he writes, the letters look wrong. He asks the teacher for help, and letters make sense. The warm story reminds everyone that sometimes we all need help to learn something new.

Bad Apple: A Tale of Friendship

Edward Hemingway. Penguin Young Readers Group.

Mac and Will are unlikely friends. Mac is an apple, and Will is a worm. When the other apples make fun of Mac, Will decides Mac will be happier without him. Will true friendship survive?

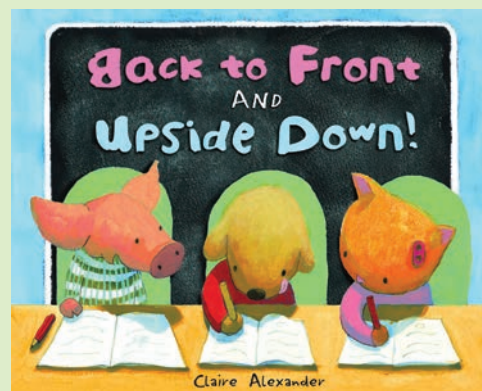
Bailey at the Museum

Harry Bliss. Scholastic.

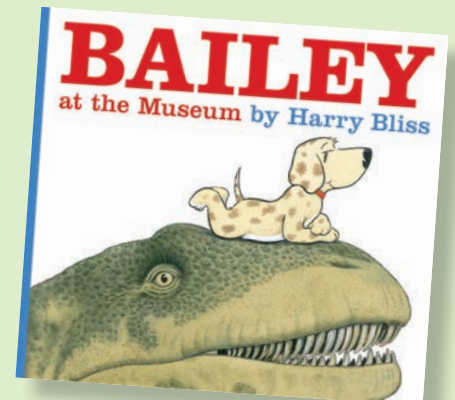
Bailey goes on a field trip to the Museum of Natural History. He likes the dinosaur bones best but quickly learns they aren't for climbing or chewing! Through Bailey's eyes, children get a glimpse of famous exhibits in the museum.



From *Amelia Bedelia's First Vote* by Herman Parish. Ill. Lynne Avril. HarperCollins Children's Books/Greenwillow.



From *Back to Front and Upside Down!* by Claire Alexander. Eerdmans Books for Young Readers.



From *Bailey at the Museum* by Harry Bliss. Scholastic.

Bedtime for Monsters

Ed Vere. Henry Holt Books for Young Readers.

As a monster “bump bumpity bumps” through the forest and “gloop, gloop, schloops” through the swamp, suspense and tension build. Playful language captivates children as the monster draws nearer, and a silly, surprise ending leaves them relieved and laughing!

****Big Mean Mike***

Michelle Knudsen. Ill. Scott Magoon. Candlewick.

Big Mean Mike is the meanest dog around. Big Mean Mike drives a Big Mean car or he did until the cute, fuzzy bunnies show up. Maybe Big Mean Mike isn't quite as gruff as he pretends.

****The Duckling Gets a Cookie!?***

Mo Willems. Hyperion Books for Children.

Pigeon feels he's been treated unfairly—AGAIN! When the duckling gets a cookie just by politely asking for it, Pigeon is outraged! The expressions and body language captured in the text and illustrations keep readers young and old laughing hysterically!

Every Cowgirl Loves a Rodeo

Rebecca Janni. Ill. Lynne Avril. Dial Books for Young Readers.

Nellie Sue enters the bike rodeo at the county fair and finds herself roping a goat to help a friend. She

might not win a blue ribbon, but her actions remind readers about what's most important in competition and friendship.

The Fly Flew In

David Catrow. Holiday House.

Buzz! The pesky fly flies and disrupts everything. He lands in hair and on food and buzzes around the musicians. Children will keep reading the hilarious antics of swatting and cymbals clashing to get rid of the fly.

Frog and Fly: Six Slurpy Stories

Jeff Mack. Philomel.

Six spare, slurpy stories about frog and fly. Casualties: five flies and one frog. Children will enjoy the cute illustrations that complement their banter and shenanigans.

Goldilocks and the Three Dinosaurs

Mo Willems. HarperCollins Children's Books.

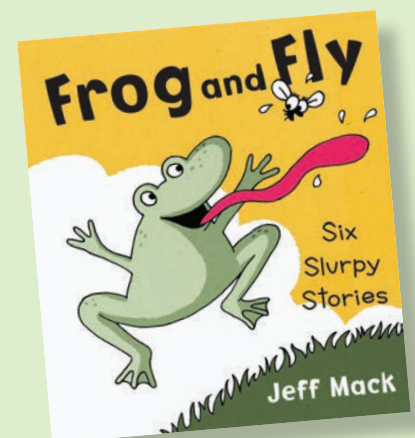
What an amazing new twist on the familiar classic! When three hungry dinosaurs set a trap for Goldilocks, she narrowly escapes. Willems misses no opportunity to amuse the reader with clever text and illustrations that only get funnier with each rereading!



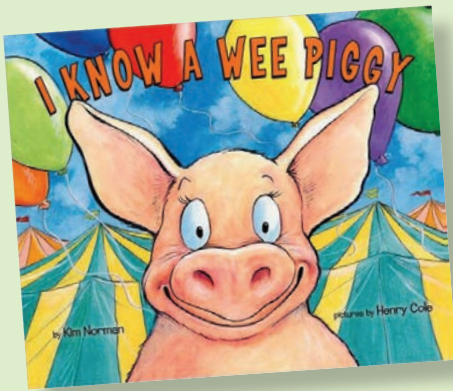
From *Bedtime for Monsters* by Ed Vere. Henry Holt Books for Young Readers.



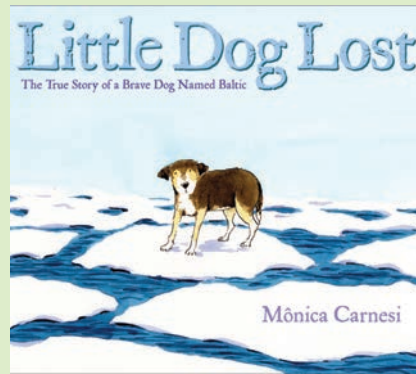
From *Big Mean Mike* by Michelle Knudsen. Ill. Scott Magoon. Candlewick.



From *Frog and Fly: Six Slurpy Stories* by Jeff Mack. Philomel.



From *I Know a Wee Piggy* by Kim Norman. Ill. Henry Cole. Dial Books for Young Readers.



From *Little Dog Lost: The True Story of a Brave Dog Named Baltic* by Mônica Carnesi. Nancy Paulsen Books.



From *Llama Llama Time to Share* by Anna Dewdney. Viking Children's Books.

Good News, Bad News

Jeff Mack. Chronicle.

A rabbit and mouse go for an eventful picnic with good and bad things happening. *Good News* and *Bad News* as the book's only words tell about each superbly illustrated full-page picture. This book is excellent for emergent readers.

I Know a Wee Piggy

Kim Norman. Ill. Henry Cole. Dial Books for Young Readers.

Color-filled read-aloud with a rampaging pig. Children will enjoy piggy's antics and anticipate the chance to predict the next color he runs amuck in.

****I'll Save You Bobo!***

Eileen Rosenthal. Ill. Marc Rosenthal. Simon & Schuster.

Willy's own written story comes to life when Earl, his cat, becomes an acting character. Commonalities are noted when roles are reversed with a happy ending. This simple story will stimulate anyone's imagination and desire to write.

Ladybug Girl and Bingo

Jacky Davis. Ill. David Soman. Dial Books for Young Readers.

Lulu and her dog, Bingo, go camping with her family for the first time. When Bingo gets lost in the woods, it's Ladybug Girl to the rescue.

Lenore Finds a Friend: A True Story From Bedlam Farm

Jon Katz. Henry Holt Books for Young Readers.

This true story about a lonely new puppy on Bedlam Farm named Lenore who is finally welcomed by a grumpy ram named Brutus gives children confidence that new friendships can develop when least expected. Irresistible photographs tug at readers' heartstrings.

Library Mouse: A Museum Adventure

Daniel Kirk. Abrams Books for Young Readers.

In this continuation of the story of Sam, the library mouse, he leaves the walls of the library and ventures to the museum. Sam records his adventure in his explorer's journal.

Little Dog Lost: The True Story of a Brave Dog Named Baltic

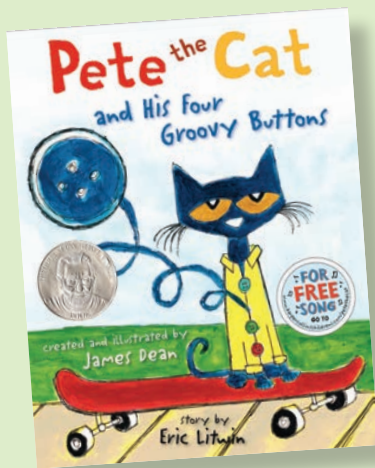
Mônica Carnesi. Nancy Paulsen Books.

Meet Baltic, a curious dog who suddenly becomes stranded on a sheet of ice as it moves swiftly down the Vistula River in Poland. Read the true story of his dramatic rescue in the icy waters of the Baltic Sea. It is a must read, especially if you love animals!

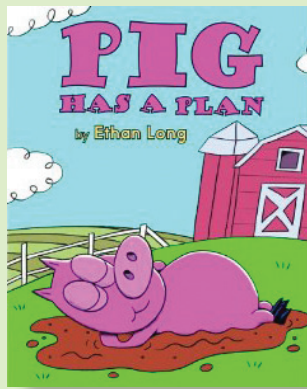
Llama Llama Time to Share

Anna Dewdney. Viking Children's Books.

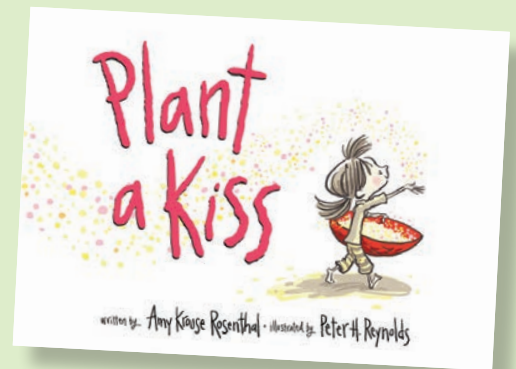
Learning to share is difficult. Llama learns to share with a friend after a cherished toy is torn and repaired. Animal characters and few words on a page make the book motivating and meaningful for any reader.



From *Pete the Cat and His Four Groovy Buttons* by Eric Litwin. Ill. James Dean. HarperCollins Children's Books.



From *Pig Has a Plan* by Ethan Long. Holiday House.



From *Plant a Kiss* by Amy Krouse Rosenthal. Ill. Peter H. Reynolds. HarperCollins Children's Books.

Mice on Ice

Rebecca Emberley and Ed Emberley. Holiday House.

Skate your way into this story of several mice who find themselves carving out a design in the ice. "What is that?" they ask and, instantly, the design takes shape into a creature often feared by mice. Children can find out what it is when you read *Mice on Ice*.

Miss Fox's Class Gets It Wrong

Eileen Spinelli. Ill. Anne Kennedy. Albert Whitman & Company.

Miss Fox's first-grade students don't understand what is wrong with their teacher. Did she break the law and get into trouble? They make guesses and tell stories. In another Miss Fox story, children will learn a lesson: Don't gossip!

**Nighttime Ninja*

Barbara DaCosta. Ill. Ed Young. Little, Brown Books for Young Readers.

While everyone sleeps, the Nighttime Ninja stealthily moves through the quiet house. He is on a secret mission. Children will delight following the little Ninja as he creeps and clambers through the house to find his treasure.

Otto the Book Bear

Katie Cleminson. Disney/Hyperion.

Otto walks out of his book and wanders around the family's house unnoticed. When the family packs away the book without him in it, he goes on an adventure that will leave readers reimagining how books can come alive.

**Pete the Cat and His Four Groovy Buttons*

Eric Litwin. Ill. James Dean. HarperCollins Children's Books.

Everyone's favorite cool cat is back, this time wearing a shirt with four groovy buttons. Alas, the buttons pop off one by one and are lost. Will Pete cry? "Goodness, no!" children respond along with the narrator.

Pig Has a Plan

Ethan Long. Holiday House.

Pig plans to take a nap. He can't figure out why everyone else is being so noisy. He tries to escape, only to find a surprise waiting for him. Children will laugh at the surprise ending to Pig's napping plans.

Piggy Bunny

Rachel Vail. Ill. Jeremy Tankard. Feiwel & Friends.

Poor Liam wants to be the Easter Bunny, but he's a pig. He has big dreams and will work hard to reach them. This warm story will show children that with work, dreams can come true.

Plant a Kiss

Amy Krouse Rosenthal. Ill. Peter H. Reynolds. HarperCollins Children's Books.

Dazzling, glittered illustrations, coupled with simple but powerful rhyme capture the fantastic journey of "Little Miss" who "planted a kiss," carefully tended it, believed in its potential to grow, and kindly shared the love she had cultivated throughout the world.

Rat and Roach: Friends to the End

David Covell. Viking Children's Books.

In this comical story, messy Rat and tidy Roach find that friendship between opposites can be a good thing. Simple but well-executed illustrations accentuate their differences and heighten the humor.

Secret Agent Splat!

Rob Scotton. HarperCollins Children's Books.

When Splat the Cat notices someone has messed with his treasured toy ducks, he uses his trusty spy kit to thoroughly investigate. The culprit's motive comes as a surprise! Clever duck code letters present readers with their own puzzle-solving opportunity!

Señorita Gordita

Helen Ketteman. Ill. Will Terry. Albert Whitman & Company.

This Tex-Mex flavored retelling of The Gingerbread Man is rich with cultural references as hungry animals of the southwest chase Señorita Gordita through the desert. A glossary of Spanish words and a recipe for gorditas provide the perfect finishing touch!

Silly Doggy!

Adam Stower. Orchard/Scholastic.

Newspaper clippings alerting the public of escaped zoo animals start this whimsical tale. Confusing a big, brown, hairy, four-legged animal with a tail and wet nose for a dog, Lily's amusing, beautifully illustrated adventures with an escaped bear unfold!

The Three Ninja Pigs

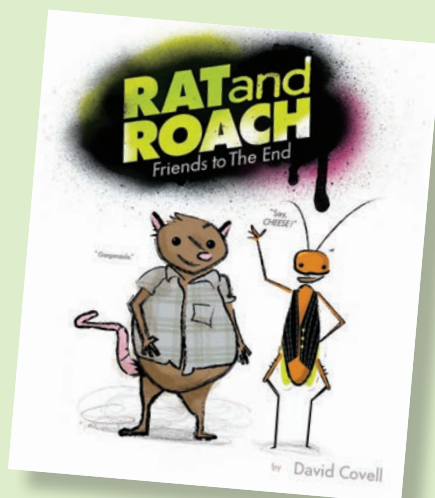
Corey Rosen Schwartz. Ill. Dan Santat. Penguin Young Readers Group.

A comical, rhythmic mix of martial arts meets fairy tale. When the three little pigs are tired of being bullied by the big, bad wolf they decide to learn to defend themselves. This hilarious story can teach lessons about bullying, perseverance, and confidence.

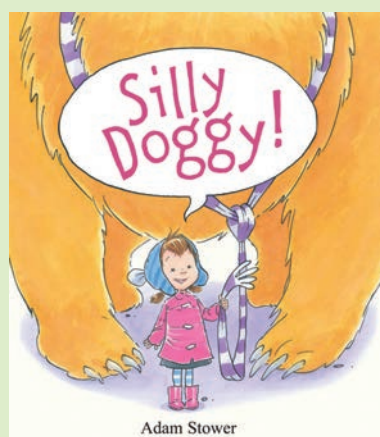
Tyler Makes Pancakes!

Tyler Florence. Ill. Craig Frazier. HarperCollins Children's Books.

Tyler dreams about pancakes. In the morning, he decides to surprise his parents by making some. The friendly grocer tells him where each ingredient comes from. Tyler's dog, Tofu, tags along on this adventure. The blueberry pancake recipe is included.



From *Rat and Roach: Friends to the End* by David Covell. Viking Children's Books.



From *Silly Doggy!* by Adam Stower. Orchard/Scholastic.



From *The Three Ninja Pigs* by Corey Rosen Schwartz. Ill. Dan Santat. Penguin Young Readers Group.

Young Readers (Grades 3–4)

5,000 Awesome Facts (About Everything!)

National Geographic Kids. Ill. with photographs.
National Geographic Children's Books.

This book has something for everyone, including reluctant readers! Each cleverly titled two-page spread offers facts organized around a variety of subjects, such as "100 Shark Facts You Can Sink Your Teeth Into!" Includes an index for easy navigation.

Aaron Rodgers and the Green Bay Packers: Super Bowl XLV

Michael Sandler. Ill. with photographs. Bearport.

Aaron Rodgers replaced the idolized quarterback Brett Favre. He had proved he was a good player, helping the team win important games. Rodgers, however, would need to lead the team to win a Super Bowl game.

Another Brother

Matthew Cordell. Feiwei & Friends.

Davey is an only child who relishes being the center of attention. Then one day his mom has a baby brother, then another and another and...soon, Davey is one of 12! Read how Davey deals with his brothers and find out the new surprise waiting for him!

****Bad Kitty for President***

Nick Bruel. Roaring Brook.

Kids learn the language and logistics of elections through Bad Kitty's campaign for the presidency of the Neighborhood Cat Club. Bad Kitty's signature antics and Nick Bruel's blend of text and illustrations keep kids laughing. Includes a glossary of election terms.

Bully

Patricia Polacco. Penguin Young Readers Group.

Everything is going perfectly for Lyla in her new school until she stands up against a popular group of girls. She becomes the girls' next target. This great story will help young people explore the issue of bullying in cyberspace and on social networks.

Dear Cinderella

Mary Jane Kensington and Marian Moore. Ill.
Julie Olson. Orchard/Scholastic.

This book is a twist on traditional fairy tales. It is a collection of letters between Cinderella and Snow White. They share their stories of wicked stepmothers and dreamy princes.

Dolphins in the Navy

Meish Goldish. Ill. with photographs. Bearport.

Dolphins have been trained by the U.S. Navy to do important and dangerous jobs. They find bombs and look for enemies. This book tells how the Navy trained and cared for both dolphins and sea lions.

Freaky-Strange Buildings

Michael Sandler. Ill. with photographs. Bearport.

Students eagerly hop aboard for an exciting tour of the world's most unusual buildings. Comparisons such as "about as tall as 30 giraffes stacked on top of each other" assist readers in understanding buildings' unique features. Index and glossary included.

Garmann's Secret

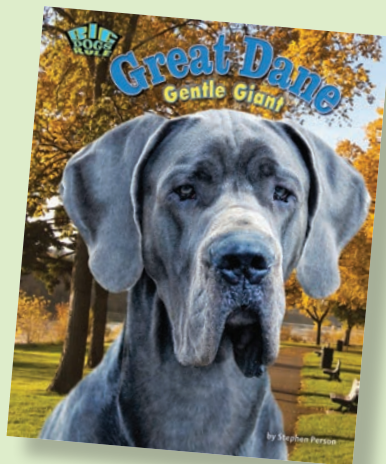
Stian Hole. Eerdmans Books for Young Readers.

Even though the twins, Hannah and Johanna, look identical, Garmann knows they're actually very different. One day Johanna takes Garmann to their secret place in the woods, and the two of them share their own secrets and an adventure together.

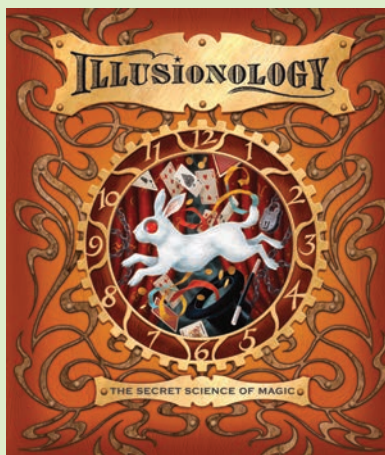
****Get the Scoop on Animal Poop! From Lions to Tapeworms: 251 Cool Facts About Scat, Frass, Dung, and More!***

Dawn Cusick. Ill. with photographs. Imagine.

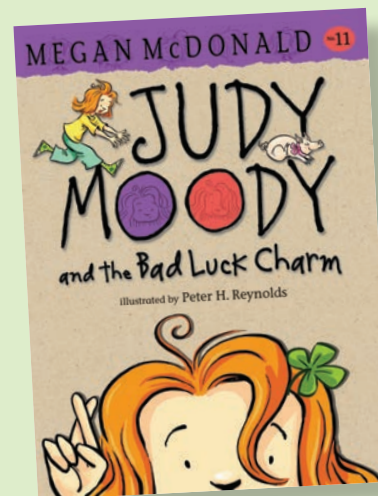
Kids who pick up this book for gross-out value will stick around for the bright photo illustrations and fascinating facts. Includes a glossary, further resources, and two indexes (subject and organism).



From *Great Dane: Gentle Giant* by Stephen Person. Bearport.



From *Illusionology: The Secret Science of Magic* by Albert Schafer. Ill. David Wyatt and Levi Pinfold. Candlewick.



From *Judy Moody and the Bad Luck Charm* by Megan McDonald. Ill. Peter H. Reynolds. Candlewick.

Giants Beware!

Jorge Aguirre. Ill. Rafael Rosado. First Second.

Feisty Claudette, her cowardly brother, and a princess wannabe are on an action-filled and often funny quest to slay giants. In this graphic novel, they learn that being a hero takes intelligence, courage, and heart.

Great Dane: Gentle Giant

Stephen Person. Ill. with photographs. Bearport.

Gibson is a therapy dog, and he was the tallest Great Dane in the *Guinness Book of Records*. Then George stood even taller than Gibson! Children will enjoy reading fun facts about the gentle and tallest dogs in the world.

****Homer***

Diane deGroat and Shelley Rotner. Orchard/Scholastic.

Will Homer, the hard-hitting Golden Retriever, help the Doggers triumph over the Hounds? Older children can't wait to read which team wins the dog championship in this delightfully fun baseball story.

Illusionology: The Secret Science of Magic

Albert Schafer. Ill. David Wyatt and Levi Pinfold. Candlewick.

Enter the fascinating world of magicians and their illusions. Learn the secrets of the great masters and perform your own tricks with step-by-step instructions in this book full of flaps, envelopes, and magician" tools.

Judy Moody and the Bad Luck Charm

Megan McDonald. Ill. Peter H. Reynolds. Candlewick.

Judy Moody's spunky personality continues to fascinate 8- and 9-year-old readers with familiar events to which they can relate. In this fast-paced adventure, Judy Moody's lucky penny initially brings her abundant good fortune, but good luck can't last forever!

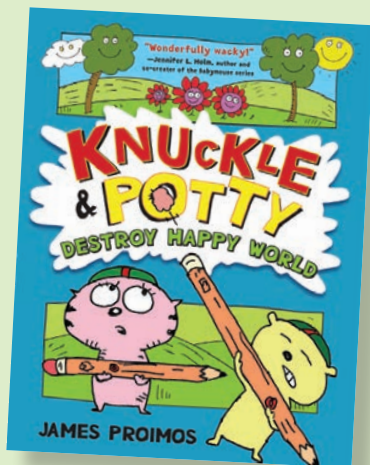
****Just Joking: 300 Hilarious Jokes, Tricky Tongue Twisters, and Ridiculous Riddles***
National Geographic Children's Books. Ill. with photographs. National Geographic Children's Books.

This hilarious joke book is loaded with full-color and eye-catching photos. Kids enjoy challenging one another with tongue twisters and were entertained by the jokes, which often feature animals and are accompanied by bold graphics. Captions next to many of the photos inform readers with interesting facts about wild animals.

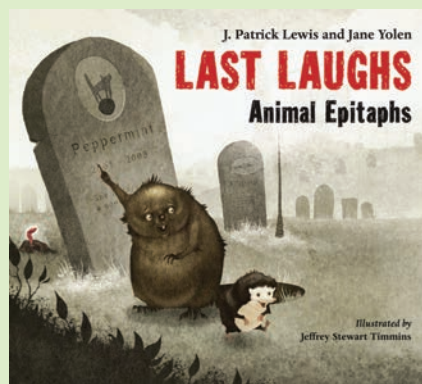
Kevin Durant

Michael Sandler. Ill. with photographs. Bearport.

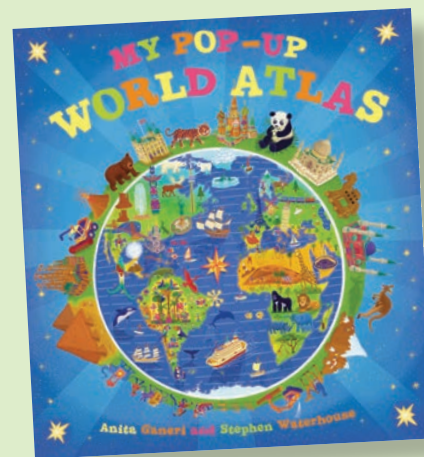
Short biography about NBA star Kevin Durant focuses on his hard work, on-the-court success, and charitable contributions. A glossary with key vocabulary makes this a useful learning tool as well as a motivating sports book.



From *Knuckle & Potty Destroy Happy World* by James Proimos. Christy Ottaviano Books.



From *Last Laughs: Animal Epitaphs* by J. Patrick Lewis and Jane Yolen. Ill. Jeffrey Stewart Timmins. Charlesbridge.



From *My Pop-Up World Atlas* by Anita Ganeri. Ill. Stephen Waterhouse. Templar.

Knuckle & Potty Destroy Happy World

James Proimos. Christy Ottaviano Books.

Tiger and Bear, aka Knuckle and Potty, are fed up with their cute and cuddly image and go on a mission to convince their so-called “creators” to toughen up their act. What follows is a goofy and laugh-out-loud story that combines graphic novel cartooning and first-person narrative.

Last Laughs: Animal Epitaphs

J. Patrick Lewis and Jane Yolen. Ill. Jeffrey Stewart Timmins. Charlesbridge.

This collection of animal epitaphs is witty and full of puns. Included are tributes to the chicken who didn’t quite make it across the road and the deer who becomes venison, among others.

Looking at Lincoln

Maira Kalman. Nancy Paulsen Books.

Older children will trace Lincoln’s journey from a log cabin to the presidency. Fun-filled facts help children get a close and personal view of Abraham Lincoln. They will learn about his favorite foods and music and his battle against slavery.

Max Goes to the Moon: A Science Adventure With Max the Dog

Jeffrey Bennett. Ill. Alan Okamoto. Big Kid Science.

Max, the dog, and Tori, his human friend, pave the way for the return to space travel and to a space station on the moon. This adventurous story is combined with boxes filled with the science behind the story.

The Monster Returns

Peter McCarty. Henry Holt Books for Young Readers.

When a paper airplane flies in his window, Jeremy finds out his monster is returning. Jeremy must think quickly. He invites his friends to help him with his plan.

My Pop-Up World Atlas

Anita Ganeri. Ill. Stephen Waterhouse. Templar.

The authors make geography come alive. Interesting facts, colorful illustrations, and multilayered continental pop-ups will keep children searching for more geographical facts about their world.

Pigmares: Porcine Poems of the Silver Screen

Doug Cushman. Charlesbridge.

A little piggy watches scary monster movies before bedtime and has nightmares, or “pigmares.” Seventeen clever Pig poems spin off of famous creepy classic movies.

****Pluto Visits Earth!***

Steve Metzger. Ill. Jared D. Lee. Orchard/Scholastic.

Disgruntled at being downgraded by astronomers to a dwarf planet in 2006, Pluto visits Earth to regain his status. While on Earth, a young boy helps Pluto realize that size doesn’t matter. Big or small, you can be equally special!

Quiz Whiz: 1,000 Super Fun, Mind-Bending, Totally Awesome Trivia Questions

National Geographic Kids. Ill. with photographs.
National Geographic Children's Books.

Children will have a blast with this jam-packed trivia quiz book. Readers are presented with 1,000 questions on topics that include history, science, math, geography, and pop culture. A fun book to keep the mind informed and entertained.

Saving Animals After Tornadoes

Stephen Person. Ill. with photographs. Bearport.

This book chronicles heartwarming stories of several animals whose lives were threatened by tornadoes. Children who enjoyed this book will undoubtedly be intrigued by other titles in this series that consider animals' fates when faced with fire, floods, and volcanoes.

Stupendous Sports Stadiums

Michael Sandler. Ill. with photographs. Bearport.

Part of a series that also examines amusement park rides, buildings, and skyscrapers. Eight sports stadiums are identified by their opening date, location, capacity, and stupendous feature. A table of contents, captions, glossary, and index aid in navigation of text.

Surviving the Hindenburg

Larry Verstraete. Ill. David Geister. Sleeping Bear.

A sudden explosion and roaring fire surround Werner, and the 14-year-old cabin boy must find an escape. The nonfiction story gives a gripping account of one person's survival from the fiery furnace of the historical *Hindenburg* disaster.

Third Grade Angels

Jerry Spinelli. Arthur Levine Books/Scholastic.

A third-grade teacher awards her best children with angel halos. George changes his attitude, expresses his thoughts, and works hard to become an angel. Although it appears that he will not get it, an unexpected event brings victory.

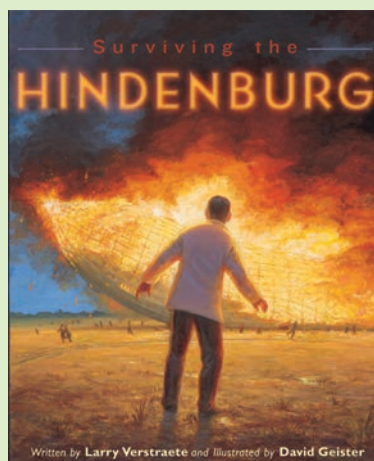
Touch the Sky: Alice Coachman, Olympic High Jumper

Ann Malaspina. Ill. Eric Velasquez. Albert Whitman & Company.

Inspiring and beautifully illustrated. Alice Coachman grows up in 1930s rural Georgia dreaming of being a high jumper. She is eventually added to the Tuskegee Institute track team and becomes the first black woman to win an Olympic gold medal.



From *Quiz Whiz: 1,000 Super Fun, Mind-Bending, Totally Awesome Trivia Questions*: National Geographic Children's Books.



From *Surviving the Hindenburg* by Larry Verstraete. Ill. David Geister. Sleeping Bear.



From *Third Grade Angels* by Jerry Spinelli. Arthur Levine Books/Scholastic.

Advanced Readers (Grades 5–6)

A Black Hole Is Not a Hole

Carolyn Cinami DeCristofano. Ill. Michael Carroll. Charlesbridge.

Interesting information and detailed pictures draw older children into the scientific exploration of black holes in outer space. Older readers will keep turning the page to find out facts about the dark mystery in the universe.

The Boy Project: Notes and Observations of Kara McAllister

Kami Kinard. Scholastic.

Boyfriend-obsessed Kara is the only girl in school who doesn't have one. She decides to apply the scientific method to this problem—studying boys, taking notes, and graphing observations. Hypothesis: Readers will laugh and cringe as Kara's experiment backfires.

Broxo

Zack Giallongo. First Second.

Princess Zora sets out alone into the dark forest. She encounters the young warrior Broxo and together they fight through many dangers to discover the mystery of the Peryton clan. Nonstop action and boy-meets-girl backdrop propel the graphic novel.

Cardboard

Doug Tennapel. Graphix/Scholastic.

A lonely father and son create cardboard real-life characters with a magic machine. A war between good and bad characters is fought with their involvement. Comic strip reading creates high interest for both readers and nonreaders.

Dark Mansions

Dinah Williams. Ill. with photographs. Bearport.

This nonfiction text profiles several famous "haunted" mansions and the lore surrounding them. The stories are supported with photographs, sidebars, and an extensive glossary that helps provide context.

****Dork Diaries 4: Tales From a Not-So-Graceful Ice Princess***

Rachel Renée Russell. Simon & Schuster.

Written in quickly read, illustrated diary entries, adolescent girls resonate with the issues Nikki faces. As she works to save the animal shelter from closing, she must also deal with mean girl MacKenzie, her crush Brandon, self-doubt, and her totally embarrassing family.

Freaky Fast Frankie Joe

Lutricia Clifton. Holiday House.

With mom in jail, Frankie moves in with his father, stepmother, and four half-brothers. While managing his "Freaky Fast Delivery Service," designed to raise money so he can reunite with his mother, Frankie gains a new understanding of life.

Goosebumps: Wanted: The Haunted Mask

R.L. Stine. Goosebumps/Scholastic.

In this Halloween tale, an evil, ugly mask does much more than scare people at a party. The mask turns an ordinary Halloween party into a horribly haunted affair.

Hades: Lord of the Dead (Olympians, Vol. 4)

George O'Connor. First Second.

Hades, the Lord of the Underworld, rises up to star in this action-packed tale of love and revenge. Not only is the story an exciting retelling of Hades's abduction of Persephone, but also the art offers breathtakingly beautiful renditions of the underworld and other mythical locations.

Haunted Caves

Natalie Lunis. Ill. with photographs. Bearport.

Haunted Caves takes readers inside 11 of the most frightening, claustrophobia-inducing places on Earth. From a lost treasure in Spain to a giant underground lake in the United States, you'll see it all in startling, full-color detail!

Haunted Histories: Creepy Castles, Dark Dungeons, and Powerful Palaces

J.H. Everett and Marilyn Scott-Waters. Christy Ottaviano Books.

The Ancient Order of Ghostorians visit ghosts and gather historical information. They provide children with a fun and interesting look at castles, medieval class systems, dungeons and prisons, torture, workhouses, palaces from England to India, and heraldic symbols and monuments.

The Hero's Guide to Saving Your Kingdom

Christopher Healy. Ill. Todd Harris. Walden Pond/HarperCollins Children's Books.

Four rejected princes, who in the past have only been known collectively as "Prince Charming," stumble upon an evil plan that threatens their kingdoms. Thwarting several evils, heroism is finally acknowledged! This original fractured fairy tale has cross-gender appeal.

Horrible Hauntings: An Augmented Reality Collection of Ghosts and Ghouls

Shirin Yim Bridges. Ill. William Maughan. Goosebottom.

Eight ghost sightings are described and coupled with eight full-page complementary illustrations. After uploading a free app to their phone or tablet,

students worked to see ghosts come to life in these illustrations. This motivated even the most reluctant reader!

I Lay My Stitches Down: Poems of American Slavery

Cynthia Grady. Ill. Michele Wood. Eerdmans Books for Young Readers.

Each rich and detailed poem is part of a quilting pattern design weaving together the hopes, dreams, and spirituality of American slaves. Rich in symbolism, older readers will appreciate the beauty of each story told in poetic form.

Legends of Zita the Spacegirl

Ben Hatke. First Second.

In this graphic novel, Zita has a robot double that is making trouble. Zita is determined to find a way to return home to Earth. Her adventure helps her learn how to be herself.

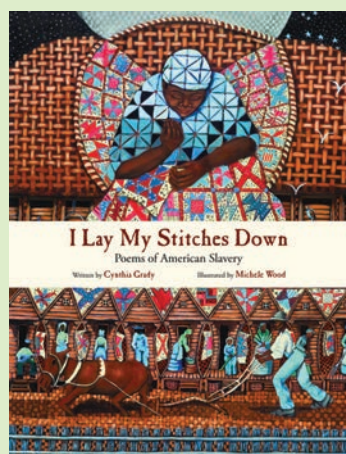
****Liar & Spy***

Rebecca Stead. Wendy Lamb Books.

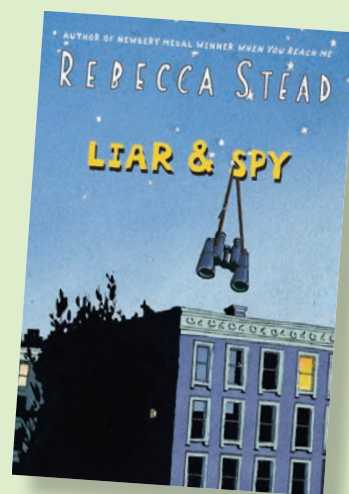
When seventh grader Georges moves into a Brooklyn apartment building, he meets Safer, a 12-year-old self-proclaimed spy. Safer convinces Georges to be his first spy recruit and together they watch Mr. X, a neighbor who might be hiding a dangerous secret. Readers won't be able to put this one down!



From *Haunted Histories: Creepy Castles, Dark Dungeons, and Powerful Palaces* by J.H. Everett and Marilyn Scott-Waters. Christy Ottaviano Books.



From *I Lay My Stitches Down: Poems of American Slavery* by Cynthia Grady. Ill. Michele Wood. Eerdmans Books for Young Readers.



From *Liar & Spy* by Rebecca Stead. Wendy Lamb Books.

****Pickle: The (Formerly) Anonymous Prank Club of Fountain Point Middle School***

Kim Baker. Ill. Tim Probert. Roaring Brook.

Ben Diaz and four engaging middle grades characters from various ethnic backgrounds form the League of Pickle Masters, a secret society for goofing off and performing harmless pranks. This book keeps students laughing while learning valuable lessons about friendship.

Pip and the Wood Witch Curse: A Spindlewood Tale (Book 1)

Chris Mould. Albert Whitman & Company.

Pip runs away from the orphanage and from being a pirate's cabin boy. He comes to Hangman's Hollow and the city's war with the forest and the wood witches. This dark tale is the first in the new Spindlewood Tales series.

Presidential Pets: The Weird, Wacky, Little, Big, Scary, Strange Animals That Have Lived in the White House

Julia Moberg. Ill. Jeff Albrecht Studios. Imagine.

Poetry, presidential stats, and interesting pets fill this colorfully illustrated book. Discovering that the White House was home to pets such as a dog named

Satan, bear cubs, alligators, and a swearing parrot provides children with a fun way to learn presidential facts.

****Rebel McKenzie***

Candice Ransom. Disney/Hyperion.

Rebel wants to attend the Ice Age Kids' Dig and Safari, a summer camp, but summer camps cost money. Rebel sets out to win a beauty contest and some prize money, but ends up learning a lot about herself.

Remarkable

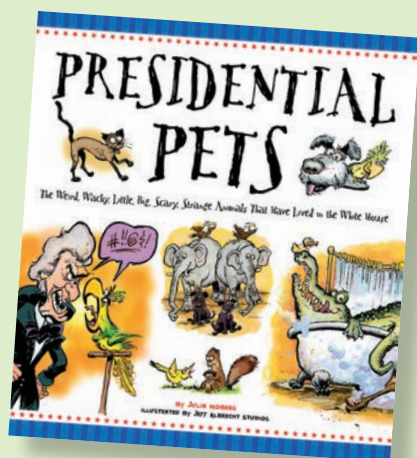
Lizzie K. Foley. Dial Books for Young Readers.

Ordinary Jane Doe does not fit in with others in the town of Remarkable, where everyone is extraordinary. When citizens in town are in jeopardy of having damaging secrets divulged, Jane must solve the mystery and save the day.

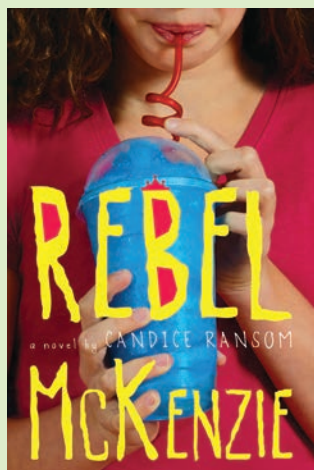
Ruby Redfort Look Into My Eyes

Lauren Child. Candlewick.

Ruby is a super-genius 13-year-old spy who cracks codes and goes onto daring missions with her loyal butler, Hitch. She goes after a crime organization, but one thing gets her into trouble: She can't keep a secret.



From *Presidential Pets: The Weird, Wacky, Little, Big, Scary, Strange Animals That Have Lived in the White House* by Julia Moberg. Ill. Jeff Albrecht Studios. Imagine.



From *Rebel McKenzie* by Candice Ransom. Disney/Hyperion.



From *Remarkable* by Lizzie K. Foley. Dial Books for Young Readers.

Same Sun Here

Silas House and Neela Vaswani. Ill. Hilary Schenker. Candlewick.

In this novel written in two voices, the son of a Kentucky coal miner and an Indian immigrant girl in New York City find they have much in common. Their friendship creates a bridge between their cultural differences.

Shadow

Michael Morpurgo. Feiwel & Friends.

This winner of several awards is the adventurous story of a boy and his mother. They've fled war-torn Afghanistan. Captured and imprisoned, their only hope is a good friend and the need to find a lost loyal dog.

Spider-Man: Inside the World of Your Friendly Neighborhood Hero

Matthew K. Manning, with additional text by Tom DeFalco. DK Publishing.

With fast-paced action, the inside story behind Spider-Man springs to life. Learn how his costume was created. Find out about his friends and how he made enemies. The history of Spider-Man is a true page-turner for older readers.

****Stickman Odyssey, Book 2: The Wrath of Zozimos***

Christopher Ford. Philomel.

Another mythological misadventure for the comical Zozimos in this reimagined Odyssey. Fast-paced action and silliness will keep readers attentive and entertained as the stick-figured hero seeks to reclaim the kingdom of Sticatha.

The Takedown of Osama bin Laden

Natalie Lunis. Ill. with photographs. Bearport.

Step-by-step the hunt for America's most wanted Osama bin Laden engrosses older readers. They will follow the search from Afghanistan to Pakistan and read about the bravery of Navy Seals who went on a daring mission.

Today's Air Force Heroes

Miriam Aronin. Ill. with photographs. Bearport.

In these true tales of real heroes, read amazing accounts of courageous men and women who put their lives at risk. This book demonstrates the diversity among the many who have stepped up to make our country safer.

Undead Ed

Rotterly Ghoustone. Ill. Nigel Baines. Razorbill.

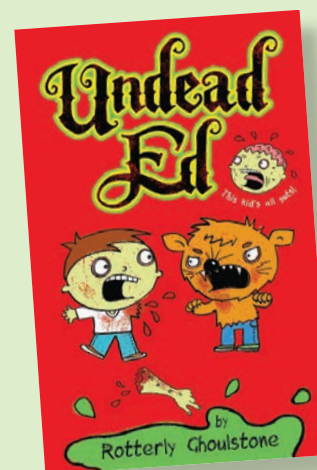
Ed Bagley is on a mission to save his town—from his own evil left arm! The hilariously gory misadventures of a newly undead zombie will have you ROFL. It's gross-out fic with tons of pics.



From *Shadow* by Michael Morpurgo. Feiwel & Friends.



From *Spider-Man: Inside the World of Your Friendly Neighborhood Hero* by Matthew K. Manning, with additional text by Tom DeFalco. DK Publishing.



From *Undead Ed* by Rotterly Ghoustone. Ill. Nigel Baines. Razorbill.

Unusual Creatures: A Mostly Accurate Account of Some of Earth's Strangest Animals

Michael Hearst. Ill. Arjen Noordeman, Christie Wright, and Jelmer Noordeman. Chronicle.

Older readers will delve in to explore the weird and goofy-looking creatures roaming the earth. Interesting facts, habitats, and scientific names are only part of the most unusual creatures' worlds that will keep readers turning the pages.

Weird But True! 4: 300 Outrageous Facts

National Geographic Kids. Ill. with photographs. National Geographic Children's Books.

Brightly colored, large illustrations with few words tell about unusual and interesting little-known facts throughout the world. Once one starts to read the book, it will be difficult to put it down again.

White House Kids: The Perks, Pleasures, Problems, and Pratfalls of the Presidents' Children

Joe Rhatigan. Ill. Jay Shinn. Imagine.

This is a collection of fun and unusual facts about some of the kids who have had the opportunity to live in the White House. Want to bowl? Just go to the basement! Fascinating tales of real-life kids.

*Books that received the highest Children's Choices team votes.



From *Weird But True! 4: 300 Outrageous Facts* by National Geographic Kids. National Geographic Children's Books.



From *White House Kids: The Perks, Pleasures, Problems, and Pratfalls of the Presidents' Children* by Joe Rhatigan. Ill. Jay Shinn. Imagine.



Children's Choices 2013 Reading List

Beginning Readers (Grades K-2)

Amelia Bedelia's First Vote. Herman Parish. Ill. Lynne Avril. HarperCollins Children's Books/Greenwillow.
Back to Front and Upside Down! Claire Alexander. Eerdmans Books for Young Readers.
Bad Apple: A Tale of Friendship. Edward Hemingway. Penguin Young Readers Group.
Bailey at the Museum. Harry Bliss. Scholastic.
Bedtime for Monsters. Ed Vere. Henry Holt Books for Young Readers.
Big Mean Mike. Michelle Knudsen. Ill. Scott Magoon. Candlewick.
The Duckling Gets a Cookie! Mo Willems. Hyperion Books for Children.
Every Cowgirl Loves a Rodeo. Rebecca Janni. Ill. Lynne Avril. Dial Books for Young Readers.
The Fly Flew In. David Catrow. Holiday House.
Frog and Fly: Six Slurpy Stories. Jeff Mack. Philomel.
Goldilocks and the Three Dinosaurs. Mo Willems. HarperCollins Children's Books.
Good News, Bad News. Jeff Mack. Chronicle.
I Know a Wee Piggy. Kim Norman. Ill. Henry Cole. Dial Books for Young Readers.
'I'll Save You Bobo! Eileen Rosenthal. Ill. Marc Rosenthal. Simon & Schuster.
Ladybug Girl and Bingo. Jacky Davis. Ill. David Soman. Dial Books for Young Readers.
Lenore Finds a Friend: A True Story From Bedlam Farm. Jon Katz. Henry Holt Books for Young Readers.
Library Mouse: A Museum Adventure. Daniel Kirk. Abrams Books for Young Readers.
Little Dog Lost: The True Story of a Brave Dog Named Baltic. Mónica Carnesi. Nancy Paulsen Books.
Llama Llama Time to Share. Anna Dewdney. Viking Children's Books.
Mice on Ice. Rebecca Emberley and Ed Emberley. Holiday House.
Miss Fox's Class Gets It Wrong. Eileen Spinelli. Ill. Anne Kennedy. Albert Whitman & Company.
**Nighttime Ninja.* Barbara DeCosta. Ill. Ed Young. Little, Brown Books for Young Readers.
Otto the Book Bear. Katie Cleminson. Disney/Hyperion.
**Pete the Cat and His Four Groovy Buttons.* Eric Litwin. Ill. James Dean. HarperCollins Children's Books.
Pig Has a Plan. Ethan Long. Holiday House.
Piggy Bunny. Rachel Vail. Ill. Jeremy Tankard. Feiwel & Friends.
Plant a Kiss. Amy Krouse Rosenthal. Ill. Peter H. Reynolds. HarperCollins Children's Books.
Rat and Roach: Friends to the End. David Covel. Viking Children's Books.
Secret Agent Splat! Rob Scotton. HarperCollins Children's Books.
Señorita Gordita. Helen Ketteman. Ill. Will Terry. Albert Whitman & Company.
Silly Doggy! Adam Stower. Orchard/Scholastic.
The Three Ninja Pigs. Corey Rosen Schwartz. Ill. Dan Santat. Penguin Young Readers Group.
Tyler Makes Pancakes! Tyler Florence. Ill. Craig Frazier. HarperCollins Children's Books.

Young Readers (Grades 3-4)

5,000 Awesome Facts (About Everything!). National Geographic Kids. Ill. with photographs. National Geographic Children's Books.
Aaron Rodgers and the Green Bay Packers: Super Bowl XLV. Michael Sandler. Ill. with photographs. Bearport.
Another Brother. Matthew Cordell. Feiwel & Friends.
**Bad Kitty for President.* Nick Bruel. Roaring Brook.
Bully. Patricia Polacco. Penguin Young Readers Group.
Dear Cinderella. Mary Jane Kensington and Marian Moore. Ill. Julie Olson. Orchard/Scholastic.
Dolphins in the Navy. Meish Goldish. Ill. with photographs. Bearport.
Freaky-Strange Buildings. Michael Sandler. Ill. with photographs. Bearport.
Garmann's Secret. Stian Hole. Eerdmans Books for Young Readers.
**Get the Scoop on Animal Poop! From Lions to Tapeworms: 251 Cool Facts About Scat, Frass, Dung, and More!* Dawn Cusick. Ill. with photographs. Imagine.
Giants Beware! Jorge Aguirre. Ill. Rafael Rosado. First Second.
Great Dane: Gentle Giant. Stephen Person. Ill. with photographs. Bearport.
**Homer.* Diane deGroat and Shelley Rotner. Orchard/Scholastic.
Illusionology: The Secret Science of Magic. Albert Schafer. Ill. David Wyatt and Levi Pinfold. Candlewick.
Judy Moody and the Bad Luck Charm. Megan McDonald. Ill. Peter H. Reynolds. Candlewick.

***Just Joking: 300 Hilarious Jokes, Tricky Tongue Twisters, and Ridiculous Riddles.** National Geographic Children's Books. Ill. with photographs. National Geographic Children's Books.

Kevin Durant. Michael Sandler. Ill. with photographs. Bearport.

Knuckle & Potty Destroy Happy World. James Proimos. Christy Ottaviano Books.

Last Laughs: Animal Epitaphs. J. Patrick Lewis and Jane Yolen. Ill. Jeffrey Stewart Timmins. Charlesbridge.

Looking at Lincoln. Maira Kalman. Nancy Paulsen Books.

Max Goes to the Moon: A Science Adventure With Max the Dog. Jeffrey Bennett. Ill. Alan Okamoto. Big Kid Science.

The Monster Returns. Peter McCarty. Henry Holt Books for Young Readers.

My Pop-Up World Atlas. Anita Ganeri. Ill. Stephen Waterhouse. Templar.

Pigmaries: Porcine Poems of the Silver Screen. Doug Cushman. Charlesbridge.

***Pluto Visits Earth!** Steve Metzger. Ill. Jared D. Lee. Orchard/Scholastic.

Quiz Whiz: 1,000 Super Fun, Mind-Bending, Totally Awesome Trivia Questions. National Geographic Kids. Ill. with photographs. National Geographic Children's Books.

Saving Animals After Tornadoes. Stephen Person. Ill. with photographs. Bearport.

Stupendous Sports Stadiums. Michael Sandler. Ill. with photographs. Bearport.

Surviving the Hindenburg. Larry Verstraete. Ill. David Geister. Sleeping Bear.

Third Grade Angels. Jerry Spinelli. Arthur Levine/Scholastic.

Touch the Sky: Alice Coachman, Olympic High Jumper. Ann Malaspina. Ill. Eric Velasquez. Albert Whitman & Company.

Advanced Readers (Grades 5–6)

A Black Hole Is Not a Hole. Carolyn Cinami DeCristofano. Ill. Michael Carroll. Charlesbridge.

The Boy Project: Notes and Observations of Kara McAllister. Kami Kinard. Scholastic.

Broxo. Zack Giallongo. First Second.

Cardboard. Doug Tennapel. Graphix/Scholastic.

Dark Mansions. Dinah Williams. Ill. with photographs. Bearport.

***Dork Diaries 4: Tales From a Not-So-Graceful Ice Princess.** Rachel Renée Russell. Simon & Schuster.

Freaky Fast Frankie Joe. Lutricia Clifton. Holiday House.

Goosebumps: Wanted: The Haunted Mask. R.L. Stine. Goosebumps/Scholastic.

Hades: Lord of the Dead (Olympians, Vol. 4). George O'Connor. First Second.

Haunted Caves. Natalie Lunis. Ill. with photographs. Bearport.

Haunted Histories: Creepy Castles, Dark Dungeons, and Powerful Palaces. J.H. Everett and Marilyn Scott-Waters. Christy Ottaviano Books.

The Hero's Guide to Saving Your Kingdom. Christopher Healy. Ill. Todd Harris. Walden Pond/HarperCollins Children's Books.

Horrible Hauntings: An Augmented Reality Collection of Ghosts and Ghouls. Shirin Yim Bridges. Ill. William Maughan. Goosebottom.

I Lay My Stitches Down: Poems of American Slavery. Cynthia Grady. Ill. Michele Wood. Eerdmans Books for Young Readers.

Legends of Zita the Spacegirl. Ben Hatke. First Second.

***Liar & Spy.** Rebecca Stead. Wendy Lamb Books.

***Pickle: The (Formerly) Anonymous Prank Club of Fountain Point Middle School.** Kim Baker. Ill. Tim Probert. Roaring Brook.

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More About Children's Choices

Thank you to the 2012–2013 IRA-CBC Joint Committee and review teams. The committee cochairs were Pamela Farris and Sheri Tucker. Team Leaders in the field test were

- Terri Schmidt, Utah—Area 1
- Dr. Philip Tucker and Dr. Johan van der Jagt, Pennsylvania—Area 2
- Dr. Sheri Tucker, Arkansas—Area 3
- Nancy Baumann, Missouri—Area 4
- Diana Porter, Kentucky—Area 5

For more information on the CBC and IRA, or on how to become involved in the IRA/CBC Children's Choices project, visit www.cbcbooks.org/readinglists.php?page=childrenschoices or www.reading.org/resources/booklists/childrenschoices.aspx.

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